

# BULLETIN

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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*"If a man were permitted to make all the homes, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation."*—From "Grover Cleveland: The Man and the Statesman," McELROY.

*"Common sense is scientific method roughly applied."*—A. E. MORGAN.

### THE EXECUTIVE AND HIS DIRECTORS

The day is past or rapidly passing when the Board of Directors hired a super-clerk to carry out their directions in philanthropic undertakings that belonged to them. We have now and then met with organizations whose executives wait patiently outside the Board room door on the chance that the Board, meeting within, may wish to ask them a question or two before putting in final shape instructions for their future conduct. But these relics are happily more and more infrequent. The executive chosen should be good enough to attend all ordinary meetings of the Board, and the modern executive, although not a member of the Board, is generally present at these meetings and takes his part in all deliberations.

A gradual change from the proprietary toward the community point of view on the part of the Directors and contributors has probably helped to bring the executive and his directors into closer co-operative relations in the way Mr. Stockton Raymond describes in "The Executive and His Directors," in Section 2 of the April 7th "Better Times." Starting with the assumption that the Directors being legally responsible for the work should control it, Mr. Raymond immediately adds this modern comment: "But the executive who merely carries out orders fails in his duty of leadership, and the director who does not participate in the activities of the agency often finds himself unable intelligently to direct its work." The matter thus becomes more of a sharing of responsibilities and activities than an observance of proper spheres of authority. We suspect that today in many organizations, especially those in which the execu-

tive really leads, he is more concerned to secure this active sharing of the burdens than to safeguard or assert the authority of his position. Mr. Raymond likens the Board to the legislative branch and the executive and staff to the executive branch of a joint enterprise, with responsibilities definitely fixed. Consequently, "interplay between the legislative and the executive functions, tending to develop the effectiveness of each, is the best possible guarantee of progress." Directors who are close to the work by participation are an invaluable aid to the executive as he formulates plans just as, on the other hand, responsible members of the staff are the best interpreters of the needs of the clients to be served. Fortunate indeed is the organization in which, in Mr. Raymond's words, the executive can freely "consult both (groups) before presenting important questions to the Directors, and when a decision is reached will have the help of both (groups) in interpreting it." Such common consultation in an informal way definitely operates to bridge any gap there may be between the controlling body and the staff, and to eliminate undue assumption of command on the part of Directors, which is likely to be answered by less enthusiastic work on the part of the staff.

As part of his leadership the executive must not neglect finances, whether support comes from a Chest or from the organization's own group of contributors. "If he allows himself to be relieved of all participation in the financial plans, program and activities of his organization, he may find that plans carefully developed in other committees may be scrapped because the Finance Committee says funds are not available to carry them out."

With the present increasing emphasis on professional standards in social work, enhancing the rôle of the executive and staff, plus the tendency of centralized financing to relieve Directors of one real responsibility, Mr. Raymond very wisely concludes that "the agency prospers best in the long-run in which the Directors actually direct and the executive, fully appreciating that his primary responsibility is for administration, does his utmost to strengthen the authority of the directors." They are the men and women who act for the community in this particular connection and, being human, perform best when most encouraged really to function.

An executive who has built up a prosperous enterprise but has not yet succeeded in interesting his Board of Directors for intelligent participation is not yet a complete success in his job.—C. W. A.

#### AN ORDER EASY TO FILL

The matron of an orphanage received this letter from a man in Kansas who wanted to adopt a child:

"Send one that is lively and will laugh and cry and get into mischief. . . I have raised five children, but they are all gone now, and I can tell you there is nothing so sweet as the bother of children."—BOSTON TRANSCRIPT.

#### TO CURB CHILD MARRIAGES

The New York State Commission to Examine Laws Relating to Child Welfare is considering urging two Bills designed to prevent too youthful and too hasty marriages, which are now possible under the present laws.

The first is a "Child Marriage Bill" which forbids the issue of a marriage license to a child under sixteen years of age, except by a special court order. The second is known as the "Hasty Marriage Bill" which provides that a marriage license may not be issued until five days after application has been filed. New York has no legal minimum age limit at which a girl may marry, and children may be married in that State at any age if their parents consent.

According to the United States census of 1920 throughout the country 5,554 girls married in that year were under the age of fifteen, 57 were already divorced, and 269 were widows.

There are those who claim that when parents give consent the State should not interfere, but it is altogether too well known that many parents do not know what is for the best interests of their children, and the State itself has a large stake. The parents are often as blind to the dangers of child marriage as they are to the injury of child labor.

Seventeen states now have laws against the marriage of girls under 16, 9 more have a lower age limit of 15, 8 states and the District of Columbia have the line at 14; while Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia give 12 as a minimum age law for marriage. As a rule the minimum age for the males is two years higher. The following eleven states have no statutes as to the age when a girl may legally marry: Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

The Bill to slow up marriages is of equal importance. It is in line with a long established rule of the Roman Catholic church, which requires the publication of banns. In States where it has been tried it has proved very advantageous in the prevention of impulsive and ill-considered marriages. The following states now have

some such law requiring advance notice: All of the New England States, five days; New Jersey, three days; Delaware, four days for non-residents, and one day for residents; Wisconsin, five days; Nebraska, ten days.

#### CHILD-SUICIDES

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, the eminent statistician, says the general suicide rate is "normal." Although it varies from year to year and very much in different communities, it seems to average about 15 per 100,000 of population. There has recently been a marked increase in the rate among well-to-do and highly educated, and, strangest of all, among children. In regard to suicide among children Dr. Hoffman in "The Spectator" says:

"Unquestionably, the number of morbid children is increasing. Our processes of education, our changed conditions of home life, our confused environment all tend to a high rate of self-destruction, but in the Registration States, including about 80 per cent. of our population, and for the three years, 1920, 1921, and 1922, there occurred one death from suicide among children ages 5-9; 121 deaths from suicide at ages 10-14, and 962 deaths from suicide at ages 15-19.

"In 1923 the rate for all ages reached 50.5 per 100,000 population in San Diego, California, which is one of the highest figures on record for a community of considerable size in this country. As eight of thirteen cities with excessive suicide rates are located on the Pacific Coast, the presumption that suicide occurs more frequently under lowering skies and in a depressingly humid atmosphere seems contrary to fact."

#### CANDY SHOP GANG BECOMES BOYS' CLUB

"My boy, William, earns \$8.50 a week. But he never brings it home. It is the candy shop where the boys gather—that's the trouble. William is only fifteen, but he is big and strong—and won't listen to me or his father. No, I don't know what the boys do there. Just hang around, I suppose. They run charge accounts and their wages are gone before they get them." The speaker was a much worried mother and her complaint was one of the hundreds brought to the attention of the Juvenile Protective Association.

"Investigation showed that William was one of a group of about twenty. The boys gathered evenings at the candy shop. 'We sit around, talk, smoke, drink pop, and go to the movies if somebody has been paid,' was one boy's comment. The boys were fifteen or sixteen years of age. Some were taking the 'co-op' course, working one week and going to school the next. Others had already stepped into the work-a-day world. With long trousers and pocket-money of their own, these boys were too grown up to indulge in the childish pursuits of their grammar school days. Yet they were only 'kids' to their older brothers and sisters. Drifting, wasting their free time, they were at the age when a little push one way or another might determine the course of the rest of their lives.

"How could these boys be gotten out of the candy shop into a more wholesome atmosphere? What could be done to transform this crowd of wasteful idlers into an organized group with healthy activities and fine ideals? This was the problem the Juvenile Protective Association put to itself.

"The section in which these boys live is not one in which recreation facilities are abundant. Inquiry revealed that the neighborhood churches had no facilities—or else no room for a new group. The schools were then canvassed. One school had a splendid 'gym' available. However, the charge for keeping the building open for a single group seemed prohibitive. Not to be discouraged, the Juvenile Protective Association enlisted the interest of other agencies. It was finally successful in having a Community Service worker undertake the active supervision of the group.

"The 'candy shop gang' is now a real boys' club. Basketball, which was an unknown game to most of the boys a few months ago, is now their chief sport. And if you want to know where the boys' extra money goes you will have to see the club treasurer. As for the candy shop itself, if you pass it of an evening you will find it quite deserted.

"Such undirected or misdirected groups, potential if not always actual centers of delinquency, show a wide range of serious problems. Studying such problems and working out plans to solve them, bringing about the provision of wholesome recreational opportunities where most needed, affording the individual boy and girl just the kind of guidance he or she needs in his choice of sparetime activities—these constitute one of the most important phases of the Juvenile Protective Association of Cincinnati."

#### WARNING FIGURES

Health propaganda, or education, has been carried on so vigorously of late years that a glimpse of the problem that remains is of interest. Particularly when it appears that health factors are present in large numbers of the cases which come to the care of welfare agencies. And not only is this of interest to such agencies, but to children's agencies as well, since the children who come to them for care are drawn in great measure from the same group that the family agencies deal with. The families are not the same, but the group is more or less the same one.

A year ago Mr. Bailey B. Burritt, of the New York A.I.C.P., spoke at the National Conference on the presence of disease in poverty cases. From the records of this Society it appeared that between one-third and one-half of all the relief money expended went to families in which tuberculosis had a considerable hold. Dependent widows aided by this Society in 41 per cent. of the cases lost their husbands by tuberculosis. In the last Annual Report of the New York C.O.S. it appears that tuberculosis, paralysis or a crippled condition, venereal disease or undernourishment appeared in 38 per cent. of their 1923 cases. After careful study this

Society states that in 11 per cent. of the families aided venereal disease was a known factor, and estimates that it was present in many others. Again, after study it reports that feeble-mindedness was a factor in 12 per cent. to 15 per cent. of the families it worked with and that it was suspected in as many more. Other mental diseases totaled 15 per cent. known or reasonably suspected.

The stock, then, from which many children come to children's agencies and institutions is thus rather likely to be below par. Is there any possible excuse then for the society that does not take adequate precautions to know what it is getting in the way of children, or that does not expend real money and effort to put what it has into first-class shape? Yet we know of certain societies where family history is not carefully gathered and where a physical examination does not extend below the waist line or above the chin. Diseased parents and bad living can contribute much that does not show itself in this restricted area. We also have heard much about the "unplaceable" child, various as his types may be, and there are few organizations that are not cherishing one or more whom they call by this name. We submit that only those can properly use this term or idea who take every precaution before accepting children to know what they are accepting and who then use all the devices of modern pediatrics to improve what they have and to put the children in the way of being healthy men and women.

This is not easy, as witness the figures resulting from a four year effort to get a certain group of institutions to give more adequate pediatric service. The first year only 14 per cent. of all the children in these institutions could be rated entirely satisfactory physically; after four years of effort this figure rose to 40 per cent., surely not an overwhelming improvement. In the matter of nutrition in the same institutions the figures show that 53 per cent. were satisfactorily nourished and in good condition the first year; four years later this number was 71 per cent. How much effort was expended on children who had been too long neglected, whose poor inheritance or defects arising from neglect had made treatment difficult and prolonged and so kept the improvement per cent. of the general group down we do not know; but we venture to direct attention to the above figures from quite different sources, because they all constitute a warning and reasons for careful medical and mental work. Good health work is not yet universal.—C. W. A.

#### THE CHILD IN DIVORCE CASES

Children's protective workers very soon get experience with problems that arise in connection with the child in divorce cases. Some of the States are

equipping themselves with laws that make it possible for children's agencies to intervene as friends at court. The plight of the child and the parents' disregard is well expressed in the following article by Dr. Frank Crane, entitled "The Child":

"A married couple who fall out, drift apart and come into more or less hostility, are apt, both parties, to be too egocentric.

"The wife thinks of her outraged feelings, her bruised self-respect, her rights which have been cruelly ignored, her due of love and homage which has been denied.

"Her friends fan the flame of her resentment. Often her mother, quick to champion her child's cause, urges her on to separation or divorce.

"The husband works himself up into a like exasperation. So the quarrel rolls on like a snow-ball, growing larger as it rolls.

"Permit me in all politeness to ask, 'What of it?'

"Also, 'Who are you?'

"Suppose your heart is smashed and your dream shattered and this and that other tragical consequence at hand. I, speaking for Destiny, or Nature, or Mankind in general, ask, 'Well?'

"For nature is through with you anyway. What nature intended was

"The Child.

"The only reason she kindled the sex fires in you, the only reason she threw over you both the glamour of romance, and filled you with all those roseate visions, was

"The Child.

"And instead of walking up and down the stage and thundering about your rights and wrongs in mouthing tirades, suppose you stop and concentrate a bit upon the one vital and determining factor in this case which you seem to have forgotten—

"The Child. Let him have the spotlight.

"You've had your fling, and if you have made a mess of it take your medicine. But what about the little Being you brought into the world?

"Has he no right to a mother's care, a father's protection, and the environment of concord between the two?

"If you have not succeeded in working out your own happiness how would it do to give your child a chance?

"In every divorce suit there should be three lawyers; one for the plaintiff, one for the defendant, and a third for the only party to the case that really matters, the Child." —MCCLURE NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE.

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"Hygeia" says, "IF A DOG BITES YOU—

"Catch him alive and keep him under observation for ten days.

"Go to your doctor for first aid.

"If the dog dies while under observation or if you have been obliged to kill him, send the head to the nearest Pasteur laboratory with a full report of the persons bitten and the nature of the bite.

"Report for Pasteur treatment immediately if you are unable to capture the dog, if he is reported as mad, or if you are bitten on the face."

## "THE HOMEMAKER", BY DOROTHY CANFIELD

### A BOOK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN INSTITUTIONS

We have no way of knowing what this author had in mind when she began writing "The Homemaker." If she started out to write the kind of story which would give a convincing answer to the ever recurring question as to what is Woman's sphere, the author did not get very far in our humble opinion. But, if she aimed to give stupid, blundering adults some inkling as to what goes on in the innermost recesses of a child's nature as the result of stimuli provided by parents and other grown-ups, she has accomplished her purpose and made a contribution to the available literature on child interpretation.

The main characters in the book are a mother whose executive ability and passion for working with material substances find inadequate expression through keeping the house distressingly clean and politely nagging her family about all the details of daily living, even to the point of how much salt they shall put on their potatoes; a father in whom the combination of a wretched physique, a poetic soul and a low salary earned in a much despised commercial establishment, has produced a flourishing inferiority complex; and three children: Stephen, aged five, Henry, nine, and Helen, eleven.

Stephen is a sturdy individualist and the only member of the family who attempts to resist his mother's all-enveloping personality. His non-conformist attitude is expressed through the medium of wild gusts of temper, by hiding away where he cannot be found, or by such other means as he may devise to meet the occasion. The Ladies' Guild think his mother is wonderful "to keep her iron self-control when that child is in one of his tempers." They echo and appreciate her comment that it will be a great relief to her when Stephen goes to school. In fact, through bearing with Stephen's naughtiness and putting up in "such an uncomplaining way" with the inefficiency of her husband, the mother is almost a heroine in the eyes of the church and the neighborhood.

Henry is a pale, spindling lad given to "sick spells," even though his mother labors unceasingly to provide wholesome meals for her children and never allows a "boughten cooky" to profane her kitchen. Helen is imaginative and extremely sensitive. She forgets herself in the few snatched moments when she can talk freely with her father because he is so comforting about the "strange things" in her mind that clamor for explanation. But she becomes colorless and shut-in under the weight of her mother's calm disapproval.

Quite suddenly a new situation develops. The father meets with an accident which results in partial paralysis

and he can get about only in a wheeled chair. As a result he and the children make the home and the mother has an opportunity to use all her hitherto pent up energy and ability in making the living. She spends her days with finished material products instead of her children who are unfinished, human products. She thus is able to enjoy her children for the short periods she is with them.

Gradually Stephen's fits of temper decrease as his father is able to direct his interests toward other unexplored and unconquered fields. On one occasion an explosion was averted by a bowl of water, a "pretend" egg (a piece of soap), and an egg beater whose mechanism presented certain difficulties overcome only after strenuous effort.

Henry is able to take his place in the world as a person of some importance because he is now the owner of a flesh-and-blood puppy. His digestion improves and we believe the puppy is a factor in the process. Helen blossoms out into normal girlhood and is no longer burdened with unexpressed and terrorizing vagaries of thought.

The father for the first time in his life feels proud of his accomplishments. He knows that because of his sympathetic understanding and intelligent guidance his children are developing and unfolding in a beautiful sort of way.

Then a second crisis, even more dramatic than the first one, is reached, which we shall not reveal in this review. The outstanding feature of the book is the way in which the author makes the father apply himself to the interpretation of the personalities of his children and to the problem of meeting their individual social and psychical needs. It is this phase of the story which makes it valuable not only to parents but particularly to persons working with large groups of children whose personal desires and longings are too frequently not even sensed.

Because "The Homemaker" says many things in unscientific terms that psychologists and psychiatrists are saying in technical terms, we believe it is a splendid book for Superintendents of institutions to recommend to the members of their staffs who have the actual care of the children. The all-wise neighbor woman depicted is as truly one type of institutional matron as she is one type of neighbor with whom parents have to bear.

If we should suddenly be notified that we were the sole heir of an unknown uncle who owned the Lone Star Copper mine or some similar dividend producing enterprise we would send a copy of "The Homemaker" to each of our favorite institutions. Or, if we had a millionaire husband, we would use this means to play the rôle of Lady Almoner. But, under the limitations of our present circumstances, we can only say that the Child Welfare League of America will be glad to lend the book to any of its members.—M. I. A.

#### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Cincinnati Juvenile Protective Association sends us the following General Service Plan:

"I. To eliminate those conditions hazardous to the morals of the youth of the city during their leisure hours—(a) by investigation of and constructive work with places of public amusement (such as dance halls, pool rooms, burlesque houses, motion picture houses, amusement parks and boats, road-houses, sitting-rooms, cabarets, etc.); (b) by discovery and eradication of various centers of delinquency (such as places selling cigarettes or gambling chances to minors, neighborhood centers of improper group activities of minors, and other public or semi-public places where conditions tending to delinquency exist); and (c) by redirecting undesirable group activity into wholesome channels.

"II. To stimulate progress and efficiency in the field of juvenile welfare—(a) by uncovering needs in this field, and showing by means of the presentation of material or by actual pieces of demonstration work how they may be met; and (b) by working with public officials (such as Juvenile Court, Board of Education, Health Department, Park Board, Police Department, and Ohio State Department of Industrial Relations) in efforts to meet the problems of juvenile welfare.

"III. To disseminate needful information and stimulate needed legislation on subjects affecting the welfare of minors."

They have also contributed the story appearing in another part of this number with reference to the Candy Shop Gang that became a Boys' Club under their sponsorship.

The International Society for Crippled Children, headquarters at Elyria, Ohio, has a traveling executive who gives of his limited time to state agencies interested in working out "State Plans" in their jurisdictions for the Care, Cure and Education of Crippled Children. So far the "plans" under consideration in several States are based upon the "Ohio Plan," which was worked out by the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, a Rotarian organization, working in co-operation with Departments of State, Medical, Hospital, Social and Nursing Associations. The Ohio Council of Social Agencies and the Ohio Institute of Public Efficiency were of great service in working out the Plan in Ohio which has been written into the statutory law of the State.

It is starting at its Elyria office a Bureau of Information relating to the work for crippled children in the United States and Canada. The Society seeks the co-operation of all interested persons and organizations.

The State Child Welfare Commission of Oregon, which is charged with making an investigation and recommendation of every adoption filed in the State has been able through the co-operation of some of the

largest daily papers to stop the placement of children for adoption through the medium of the advertising columns. These newspapers refuse to publish ads from persons who are seeking through advertisements either to get children for adoption or to place them with that end in view. This arrangement makes it necessary for such people to deal with the authorized agencies and therefore checks a practice that has caused a great deal of bad child-placing.

J. Prentice Murphy, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Children's Commission, sends us the following news note:

"Plans made a long time back are beginning to bear fruition in Pennsylvania with reference to social work for children. The Department of Welfare, through its Bureau for Children, has completed the first thorough-going study of Pennsylvania child-caring agencies in the history of the State. With a small personnel it has accomplished a very difficult, yet valuable, piece of work. This study gives form and dimensions to the children's job such as it did not have before.

"The Children's Commission fits into the ground as ploughed up by the Department of Welfare and is engaged in the task of considering and planning legislation which will affect the more than 100,000 children who are affected by all the public and private child welfare agencies in the State in any given year. The Commission's chief job is in assisting the citizens of the State to a sound point of view as to the essentials in child welfare work.

"Throughout the State at large both the Department of Welfare and the Public Charities Association are causing many different localities to measure their work for children by certain challenging standards; and in Philadelphia the Children's Division of the Council of Social Agencies of the Welfare Federation has just completed and formally agreed to a program of standards which it is hoped will have a very profound effect upon the whole field of social welfare work for children in Philadelphia.

"All the activities named have been in terms of an evolutional process of wide education and understanding as the foundations."

The Harrisburg Associated Aid Societies report as the outstanding event in the child welfare work of the city a child study survey recently completed, in which it was found that of 105 children in two private Children's Homes 37 could be returned to relatives at once, 5 could be returned to relatives at a future date, 36 could be placed in foster homes, 6 were better cared for in other institutions, 21 had to be provided for in the new Home which is to be constructed as a result of a merger of the two Homes in question. On the basis of this study it is proposed that the new institution have accommodations for 50 children, which will be sufficient to meet present needs.

The Children's Bureau of the above Society is now addressing itself to the placement of children in foster homes.

A summary of this report is being printed by the Welfare Federation of Harrisburg and is available to

anyone interested to obtain it. The Associated Aid Societies have now added a special home finder and have recently begun to lay emphasis upon conserving the integrity of the family wherever possible, the placement of children being undertaken only as a last resort.

The Juvenile Aid Society of Philadelphia uses as part of its monthly statistical report a summary of all the permanent replacements of children that have been made in the course of the month. This is done by copying the reason given by the worker removing the child on to a summary sheet, from which a summarized study is made at the end of each month. By comparison with the same or other months of the same year or other years, the foster family agency gets something of a picture of trends in replacement and has a device which keeps well before it the facts concerning its replacements. It is generally conceded that foster home changes, frequently and thoughtlessly made, constitute one of the serious flaws in foster home care.

The above plan can serve as a guide to the real facts concerning replacements and as a relentless spur to careful placement.

Mr. J. J. Teuscher, Jr., Superintendent of the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Oregon, calls attention to the fact that "the old classification of temperaments into sanguine, lymphatic, choleric, and melancholic is not scientific." He prefers to use the following:

"First.—A motive temperament. The American Indian is a good example. Our engineers, explorers, pioneers, frontiersmen, and many of those who prefer the outdoor life and labor with their hands are representatives. Boys in whom this temperament predominates usually grow rapidly, are frequently awkward and lank, learn slowly in school, and are often considered dull, but after becoming sixteen or seventeen usually develop into useful citizens.

"Second.—The vital temperament. This is manifested by roundness and plumpness of figure and face, by width of the head more than height, and by shortness of bones. Bankers belong pre-eminently to the vital temperament group, so do merchants.

"Third.—Mental temperament. Those who represent this group are the sensitive people, who enjoy more and suffer more. They are apt to imagine that they are being slighted, that somebody has said something disagreeable about them. They learn quickly and readily. A child of this temperament is eager to go to school. Our city life is increasing this number.

"In the care and placement of children if we had studied temperament better we would have made fewer mistakes; more children would have remained in the homes in which we have placed them; there would have been fewer replacements. We must get rid of the idea that bringing the homeless child and the childless home together is child placing. That may be child dumping. Child placing is the proper adjustment of child to home and home to child."

## CHILD WELFARE NEWS

On the 19th of this month an amendment to the Non-Support Law of Massachusetts goes into effect, which provides for the payment of twenty-five cents per day for each minor child, in addition to the former amount of fifty cents per day which a wife may receive for each day's hard labor performed by a prisoner guilty of non-support.

The Bulletin of the Pan American Union reports that the new Juvenile Court in Rio de Janeiro in the Federal District of Brazil, which was opened on March 3, 1924, has already begun to show good results. During the first month 112 abandoned children came before it. Of these, 10 abnormal ones were placed in the hospital for the insane, 27 were sent to agricultural colonies, and 3 were entered in a special school. The remaining children were taken by charitable institutions.

Sixty-five counties out of the 86 counties of Minnesota reported having had carnival features, such as gambling devices or indecent shows, in connection with their county fairs. Four counties have carnivals independent of fairs and 28 counties have carnivals both with fairs and apart from them. In only 17 counties there have been no carnivals. These carnivals often gain their entrance into communities by being sponsored by local reputable agencies who do not know the character of the show. Their own reputations are at stake.—Investigate.

Dr. Walter E. Fernald is quoted as saying, "There are good mental defectives and there are bad mental defectives, but the good vastly outnumber the bad. More than 5,000 of them from nine to sixteen years of age have been studied in school clinics in Massachusetts within three years. Less than 8 per cent. gave any indication of anti-social or troublesome behavior."

Arkansas was the first State to ratify the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution. Georgia was the first State to reject the Amendment.

The passage of an Adoption Law for Great Britain is further delayed. This year the Government has taken it up, a strong committee has been appointed by the Home Secretary, with the consent of the Lower Chancellor, and this further postponement may result in an even better statute being passed at the next session of parliament.

Fatal accidents in the Pennsylvania coal mines during the period from 1916-1922 made 4,065 children fatherless. The average age of the children was about six and a half years.

HAVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

**BULLETIN NO. 6.**—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.

Price, Fifteen Cents

**BULLETIN NO. 7.**—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.

Price, Fifty Cents

**BULLETIN NO. 9.**—Condensed Report of a Survey of Juvenile Delinquency in Rochester, New York, by Henry W. Thurston.

Price, Fifty Cents

**BULLETIN NO. 11.**—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.

Price, Fifteen Cents

**CASE STUDIES, CASE NO. 1.** Edited by Miss Georgia G. Ralph.

Price, Thirty Cents

Twenty-five or more copies, Twenty-five Cents each

A social worker has been appointed by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Cleveland as an official representative of the Convent in establishing co-operative relationships with outside agencies. A list of names of girls about to be dismissed is to be furnished the probation officers of the Juvenile Court in ample time for a thorough investigation by the Court of the home conditions. After discharge big sisters are found for the girls and they are put in touch with recreational activities.

The American Association of Social Workers has opened a New England office at 264 Boylston Street, Boston; Miss Mabel Gair Curtis in charge; as well as a Mid-Western office at 308 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago; Miss Rose McHugh in charge. The latter office will limit its work for the present to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

One hundred and thirty streets of New York City were reserved for children this summer. Traffic must detour at certain hours in order that little folk may romp in safety in neighborhoods where playgrounds are impossible.

## CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

**DELAWARE.**—Children's Bureau, Wilmington. New address, Delaware Trust Building, 9th and King Streets.

**PENNSYLVANIA.**—*Correction.* Associated Aid Societies, Harrisburg. July Bulletin announced Wendell Jones, General Secretary. Name should have been Wendell F. Johnson.

## INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MISS KATHARINE P. HEWINS, Boston.

*Vice-President:* MR. ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Lansing.

*Secretary and Treasurer:* MRS. L. FREDERIC PEASE, New York.

### NEWS FROM LOCAL CONFERENCES

In a Community Program for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child just published by the Milwaukee Conference on Illegitimacy, the Foreword outlined its purpose as follows:

"In working out a program the Conference has considered Illegitimacy as a public health and child welfare problem rather than as a problem of delinquency. It has had in mind that caring for the unmarried mother and her child is one of the most delicate, intimate problems in social work; that it is a specialized service which should be attempted only by those who are especially equipped to do so through training and experience; that it should be guarded against publicity and yet should be handled in such a way that the rights of the child will be safeguarded and the illegitimate parents, through meeting their responsibilities and making sacrifices, may come out of the experience not weakened and demoralized but strengthened in character and encouraged to resume their places in society."

"The Conference has hoped that by bringing all the agencies together on a Community Program the fullest use will be made of the facilities of the community, and a higher standard of service rendered to the unmarried mother and her child."

The most valuable work of the Cleveland Conference during the past year was that of the group which made the study of adoptions in Cuyahoga County from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923. A final report of this was given at the April meeting. During the period studied, 311 adoptions involving 339 children were consummated. Sixty-six of these cases were intensively studied. The group prepared a schedule for this study and read the records of all the social agencies to whom the families and foster families were known. Of the sixty-six cases, twenty-three, or one-third, were children of unmarried parents. Violations of the laws governing adoptions were found. As a result of the recommendations the Probate Court has availed itself of the services of social agencies and the agencies have looked into their methods of procedure—both of which has resulted to the benefit of the parents and children concerned.

Because of the enlargement of the General Conference, which made impossible the discussion of problem cases, a Staff Workers' Case Conference Group was organized. Representatives from the Child-caring agencies, the Maternity Homes and Hospitals, the Juvenile Court, family welfare agencies and the Welfare Federation composed this group which met every three

weeks. The purpose of this group is to outline standards of work and to bring to the General Conference questions which demand attention for community education or community action.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

In view of the prevailing tendency towards citing case histories which marked the recent Conference at Toronto, the following extract from a report on a Conference of Social Work held at Glasgow, June 3-6 is of interest:

"The exchange of ideas by workers from all over Britain and beyond was in no sense the least valuable part of the time spent. Ample time and scope were given for a free expression of views.

"Very marked, too, was the progressive and modern attitude of most of those present toward the subjects under discussion and their attempts to bring solutions to bear upon them. Especially noticeable was the *lack of that most undesirable method of citing cases.*"

At the two days' conference of Charity Organizations and kindred societies held at Wembley, June 25-26, family social work was represented by Miss Anna B. Pratt, Director White-Williams Foundation, Philadelphia, and Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, American Social Hygiene Association, New York. Some of the subjects discussed at the Conference were:

*Present-Day Tendencies in Public and Volunteer Assistance:*

- a. Aims and Function of Volunteer Work.
- b. Equipment of the Social Worker.
- c. Experiments in the Grouping of Charities and Co-operative Financing.

### "National Health" for June has the following:

"The Consolidation Committee on Homes and Hostels, Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, is planning to show at the Pavilion of the International Council of Women at the British Empire Exhibition in October, examples of Maternity Homes and Hostels for Mothers and Babies, and to provide information as to a complete scheme of work for the illegitimate child and its mother."

It would be of interest to know how complete such a scheme aims at being and whether the Committee is able to avoid the pitfall of Domestic Service in its plan of work offered.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual dues \$1.00; Group Dues \$5.00—payable to the Treasurer, 1133 Broadway, New York.